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**REMARKS**

Favorable consideration, examination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested. The foregoing amendments are made to remove multiple dependencies in the claims, and to effect minor editorial and stylistic changes in the claims which do not relate to the patentability of the claims. New Claims 14-18 have been added to recite subject matters presented in the original form of Claims 1-13, in forms more consistent with current U.S. practice. No new matter has been entered.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of the present patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

If the patent examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of the present patent application to issue, they are invited to call on the number below.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. If, however, additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees necessitated by this paper, and to credit all refunds and overpayments, to my Deposit Account 50-2821.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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